

ACTIVE OPERATIONS.

The Energy Displayed by Gen. Weyler in Cuba Has Tended to Demoralization Rather than to Efficiency, and the Patriots Gained More in March than During Any Two Months Before—The Rainy Season Approaching.

HAVANA, April 1, via Tampa, Fla., April 4.—Army preparations have been pushed with great vigor for the past month. Gen. Weyler has given officers and men no rest. His orders have been peremptory, and many a general has incurred his displeasure by tardiness. The result of these active movements have been to completely tire out a large portion of the army in the field. The insurgents have been kept moving; their camps have been destroyed, and a dozen of their hospitals have been burned during the month that has just passed; but the government has not forced a single battle upon the rebels. The only serious engagements have been those in which the insurgents have had the advantage of position or numbers, as at Cuyajabos and Candelaria, assumed the offensive and defeated the regular troops of Spain.

There have been many rear guard skirmishes which appear in the Spanish official reports as battles and victories for the crown, but, upon investigation, a number of them proved to be massacres of unarmed citizens, and there have been more tales of horrors committed than battles fought in this island of Cuba during the month of March. If one hundredth part of the stories that reach here of the operations of the columns of Generals Melguiso and Bernal, and of Colonels Molina, Tort, Segura and others are true, the reason why Gen. Weyler cancelled all passes held by correspondents is plain.

Owners of estates report excesses committed by detached bodies of Spanish troops in all parts of the island and there is no longer talk of attempting to grind sugar this year, the problem is how to preserve the lives of employees and prevent wanton destruction by the troops.

The insurgents have gained more in the past month than in any two that have preceded it. Weyler's decree compelling the people to abandon their homes in the interior has driven many peaceable inhabitants into the rebel armies. The harsh measures adopted toward suspects in cities and towns have also increased the number of recruits from families of the better class in cities.

The landing of four important expeditions has given inspiration to the insurgent army. Their hopes were never brighter. Hot weather is already here, and the rains are not far off. The limited time remaining for military operations this spring, makes it plain that Spain cannot crush the rebellion before the wet season sets in, and the serious problem of caring for the lives of her soldiers presents itself. A Spanish officer says that the losses of the army through fever and other sickness have been 12,000 since September, and over twenty-five thousand during the year ended March 1.

Generals Aldrea and Malan have been sent back to Spain, making nine generals who have been returned since Gen. Weyler arrived. Gen. Obregon is also booked to return and Gen. Pando, commander of the first army corps, has been ordered back for allowing Gomez to enter Santa Clara without fighting a battle. Gen. Suarez Valdez is also on the list. He is in command of Pinar del Rio, and besides failing to suppress the rebellion in his section, he sent an impertinent message to Weyler by heliograph. Weyler says he can get more active work out of colonels than from generals, and the exodus continues. There is much dissatisfaction among officers of higher grades.

Gen. Weyler has been in a highly nervous state for several days, and many stormy interviews between him and his men have taken place. His troubles with the politicians are just beginning. He has assured the home government that elections can be held in Cuba, and now he has two parties—the reformists and the autonomists—refusing to take part, leaving the union-constitutional or conservative Spanish party alone in the field.

Rumors that Weyler will be recalled are persistent. Since advice that the United States will not recognize the belligerency of the Cubans, Gen. Weyler has begun open executions of prisoners of war. Three have been shot at Cabañas prison within a week, and more are doomed to the same fate.

J. FRANK CLARK.

HAWAIIAN CABLE BILL.

Committee Substitute for the Various Bills Heretofore Introduced.

WASHINGTON, April 3.—Representative Bennett, of New York, today laid before the house commerce committee at their meeting a substitute for the various Hawaiian cable bills already introduced. It provides that the cable shall extend from San Francisco to Honolulu, thence to the Midway Islands and to China and Japan.

The government is to make a subsidy of \$160,000 for 20 years, government business to be carried free of cost for all time. The tolls to China and Japan are fixed at \$1.25 a word, and to Honolulu at 35 cents a word, with press dispatches rates at one-fourth of these amounts. The general sentiment of the committee is reported to be favorable to the proposition, although some thought the amount of the subsidy should be reduced.

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT.

Large Increase in Money Order Business. WASHINGTON, April 4.—Postmaster-General Wilson has issued a statement showing a large increase in money order business last quarter over that of any preceding quarter, the receipts aggregating \$10,755,971. The net revenue, \$275,000, has never been equalled, except in the quarter ended December 31, 1893. The value of domestic orders issued was \$49,000,000 against \$44,000,000 in 1894, and the receipts were larger than those of the corresponding quarter of 1894 by \$49,000.

DUN'S COMMERCIAL REVIEW.

The Improvement Expected with Spring Weather Being Though as Yet Scarcely Visible—The Gigantic Steel Combination Expected to Stimulate Confidence and Advance Prices—Wheat Slightly Advanced—Railroad Stocks Somewhat Higher.

NEW YORK, April 4.—R. G. Dun & Co. say: The regular quarterly statement of failures shows 4,031, with liabilities of \$57,425,135, against 3,802 last year, with liabilities of \$47,813,685.

The improvement expected with spring weather begins, though in some branches of business scarcely visible. As consumers make spring purchases they must lessen stock and compel less buying. The stocks taken in advance of consumers' demands last summer have been distributed far more slowly than was expected; but months of waiting have helped to lessen the load which it is hoped spring buying will clear away. Apprehensions of foreign or financial difficulties have hindered, but are now scarcely felt. Gold exports are rumored, but at this season are so far natural that they have no such power to cause alarm as they had in winter.

The gigantic steel combination is expected to have a great influence in sustaining markets and stimulating confidence, and though such operations often miss the success they seek they rarely fail to kindle speculative buying for a time. The sudden advance of two dollars a ton in billets a week ago has raised Bessemer pigs one dollar at Pittsburgh and the demand for structural forms increases in expectation that prices will rise.

National associations have given notice of another advance of 15c at the end of this month.

Bars have been greatly demoralized, but some makers now hope to re-establish the combination, as steel bars will become dearer; but No. 1 foundry is slightly lower at Philadelphia, and the general demand for finished products does not yet improve. The steel concerns propose to restrict production by allotment, those producing more than their share paying two dollars per ton to those who produce less.

Orders for lake copper are solicited at 10c, while lead is weak at 3.10. Less encouragement appears in the horseshoe trade.

The woolen manufacture does not gain in orders and a large part of the machinery is stopped. Prices of wool have fallen 7c, cents. Cotton mills still pile up goods in advance of orders, as reductions in prices have failed as yet to stimulate buying. Speculation in products has been tame. Cotton continues to come forward so largely that former predictions of 6,500,000 bales are remembered with derision.

Wheat has slightly advanced and if later reports of injury from extensive frosts and storms prove correct; will advance more, though western receipts continue nearly 50 per cent. larger than last year. Corn exports are large and receipts also heavy, but pork declined 75c a barrel.

Speculation in stocks has not been active, though railroads average nearly one dollar per share higher than last week, while transactions in trust stocks have scarcely gained anything. Railroad tonnage in March has been a shade larger than in 1893, but reported earnings of railroads are 3.7 per cent. larger than last year, but 7.4 per cent. smaller than in 1893.

AMERICAN TIN PLATE WORKS.

In a Position to Fill the Whole Consumptive Demand Except that Enjoying a Rebate of Duty.

NEW YORK, April 4.—The quarterly review of the American tin plate manufacturing industry published in the Metal Worker this week, shows that 73 firms are now engaged or are ready to engage in the manufacture of tin plates in the United States. Thirty-four of these concerns are what is known as dipping plants, which merely coat blank steel plates purchased in the market, and finish them into tin plates. The remaining 39 concerns are tin plate works proper; that is to say, plants which roll and coat their own steel sheets. These 39 works possess an aggregate of 172 hot mills used for manufacturing the blank steel plates, which, when coated, constitute the tin plates. In the first quarter of the year, 17 such mills were added to the works, increasing their annual capacity by over five hundred thousand boxes and bringing the present potential capacity of American tin plate mills up to about five million two hundred thousand. Thus American tin plate manufacturers are now in a position to fill the whole of the consumptive demand for tin plates in the United States, apart from that proportion used by the packers and oil trade, which enjoying the advantage of a rebate duty, is still held by the Welsh trade.

THE BERMUDA RELEASED.

To Sail From Puerto Cortez for New Orleans—Her Mission a Success.

LONDON, April 4.—A private dispatch was received here last evening announcing the release of the steamship Bermuda at Puerto Cortez. The vessel will sail to-day. Her destination is given as New Orleans.

Ninety boxes of ammunition found aboard of her and which were seized are held by the Honduran authorities. Col. Nunez is a passenger on board the vessel.

IN OLD VIRGINIA.

A Monument to Mark the Birthplace of George Washington.

WASHINGTON, April 4.—A telegram received by Col. John M. Wilson, corps of engineers, U. S. A., reports that the shaft of the monument to mark the birthplace of George Washington was placed in position yesterday at Wakefield, Westmoreland county, Va. Col. Wilson will visit the field in a day or two and inspect the monument before accepting it for the government from the contractors. No preparations for the dedication have been made.

PRINCE BISMARCK.

The Deposed Chancellor, May Regain Ascendancy Over His Former Pupils and Proteges—A Prediction that the Aged Statesman Will Soon be Called Upon to Steer the Ship of State Through Impending Breakers.

BERLIN, April 4.—The representative of the United Press while at Friedrichsruhe on April 1, on the occasion of the birthday of Prince Bismarck, had a prolonged conversation with the celebrated German artist, Franz Lenbach, who is one of Prince Bismarck's oldest and most trusted friends. Herr Lenbach showed the correspondent his latest oil painting of Prince Bismarck. It is a fine work, the eye having a speaking expression that is marvelous. He also exhibited the last portrait, which he painted from life, of the old kaiser, Wilhelm I. The picture is now hanging in the smoking room at Friedrichsruhe, and is so placed that Prince Bismarck, sitting in his easy chair, with his accustomed long-stemmed pipe, can obtain the best possible view of the features of his old master.

Prince Bismarck passed much of his time daily in this room. The guests who visited the ex-chancellor on the occasion of his last birthday concurred in the opinion that the kaiser's present to the prince, a photograph of the imperial group encased in a bronze frame, the whole being about a foot long, signified almost anything that the observer of the gift might surmise, but really gave no indication of the kaiser's feelings. It was remarked that the features of the notable persons viewing the photograph made rapid changes from cold to warmth and vice versa. Count von Waldersee, after meeting the prince, expressed his pleasure at seeing the ex-chancellor so strong and bright.

The semi-official press are conjecturing that the emperor is again warming towards Prince Bismarck, and are accordingly recurring to praises of the prince's genius and services to the empire.

The Cologne Gazette which recently published an article referring to the pitiful sight of the deposed chancellor, stumbling, full of complaints, behind the state chair, now declares that the period of antagonism toward him is over and that calumny has been silenced. "His worst enemies," the Gazette continues, "are ready to admit the grandeur of this colossal historic figure and the heart of the whole of Germany yearns toward him."

The newspapers do not accept any criticism of the prince dealing with the ex-chancellor as belonging to past history, and hold that it is probable that he will still be called upon to guide the state through a crisis.

The German explorer Eugene S. Wolff, in conversation with the United Press correspondent at Friedrichsruhe on Prince Bismarck's birthday, declared that the day was coming when confusion and entanglement would reach such a pass that the emperor would be unable to help himself except by recalling Prince Bismarck to the chancellery. "It would be a bad day for Germany," he said, "if the prince is not alive to avert a catastrophe."

Herr Wolff expressed the opinion that England would prevent both Germany and France from making any further extension of their influence in Africa.

ATTEMPTED BURGLARY.

That May be Followed by Lynching in the Perpetrators are Caught.

CHICAGO, April 6.—A dispatch from Fort Dodge, Ia., says: A band of masked and heavily armed men forced an entrance into the farmhouse of the Goodsell family, near Emmetsburg, about midnight. The father was knocked to the floor by a blow from a slingshot. The eldest son, Henry, was shot in the right arm by one of the masked men, and a younger son, who endeavored to protect his mother and sisters, was felled to the floor by a blow.

The mother and daughters fled to an inner room, pursued by the masked men. The robbers demanded that the valuables be turned over and were refused by Mrs. Goodsell. She was knocked senseless also. The two daughters, Nellie and Sarah, escaped through a window in the rear and ran screaming to the house of a neighbor. The thieves, alarmed by the cries, fled. The whole country was aroused and started to pursue the robbers. Public opinion against the marauders is worked up to a high pitch, and if they are caught a lynching may follow.

INDIANA WHEAT.

A General Failing Off in Acreage and Condition.

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind., April 6.—During the last two weeks the Indiana bureau of statistics has been collecting winter wheat statistics from the 1,016 townships in the state. Reports have been received from 250 townships, representing every county but one in the state, and the result is a decided falling off both in acreage and condition as compared with last year. The general average for the state is 90.4 and the condition is 71.7. The principal cause given for the falling off in the condition of the crop is that in many places the drought last fall retarded the growth of the young plant and caused it to enter the winter in bad shape, which resulted in its injury by alternate freezing and thawing. March weather was very injurious to Indiana wheat where it was not protected by snow.

MINISTER TERRELL.

Arrives in New York from Constantinople, But Has Nothing to Say.

NEW YORK, April 6.—Alexander W. Terrell, United States minister to Turkey, was a passenger on the Hamburg-American line steamer Ernest Bismarck, which arrived yesterday from Mediterranean ports. Mr. Terrell seemed to be in perfect health and in perfectly good humor, but to all questions regarding his mission to that country, he responded with the one phrase: "I've absolutely nothing to say."

TOLD IN A FORECASTLE.

How a Wildcat Became a Pet and Turned Sailor.

Helped Navigate the Vessel—Climbed the Rigging, Learned the Ropes and Assisted in Reeding the Sails—His Singular Fate.

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"Minds me," said old Johnson, from his bunk—we had just turned in after chasing the skipper's cat out of the forecastle—"of a wildcat I was shipmate with in an English bark. A tom wildcat; was; he'd go aloft an' help stow the fore-t' gallans'."

"That's a lie!" grunted Pat from the bunk beneath.

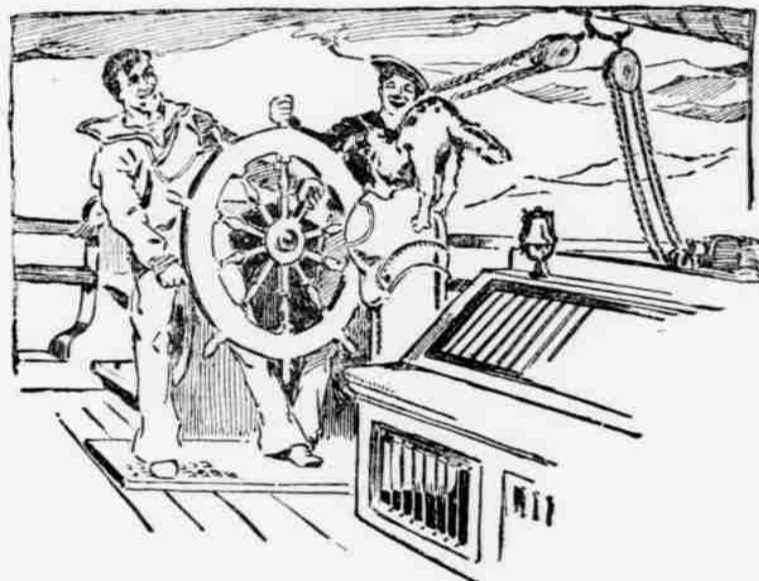
The old man reached his head out and peered down on his offending critic. Hostilities were imminent, but various cries of "Shut up, Pat," "Let the old man alone," "Go on, Johnson," and others of like nature from the other bunks silenced Pat and placated Johnson.

"Yes," resumed he, "it's a fact; that cat 'ud go aloft with us. He knew his work on a yard, too, better'n some men I've been with since," and at this direct thrust at Pat, who had passed an evening in our last reefing match, he chuckled audibly, while Pat, as though in silent protest at such claims of superior seamanship in a cat, rolled over on his side to go to sleep.

One or two of us threw out some hints in the way of questions as to the name of the bark and the color and size of the cat, knowing by experience that a direct call for a yarn would be ignored.

The old man filled and lighted his pipe, and then, kicking his bedding up over his knees, settled back and reeled off the following:

"Yes," he began, "the cat was a wonder; we got him out on the Californian coast long before 'Frisco was thought of. We ran short of water and put into a little bay, let go the mid-hook, and the mate took some of us and some casks ashore to try and find some. We found a creek of good water close by, and on our way back to the boat for the casks we ran ag in a mother wildcat with two kittens. She snarled and spit at us, and was just 'bout to jump when the mate



SWEARING AT THE MAN AT THE WHEEL.

plugged her with a bullet; she thrashed around some and killed one kitten with her claws, but we got the other and took him aboard for a pet.

"Well, we got to sea, and the kitten seemed to take to sea life first-rate. Everyone petted him, and the mate wouldn't allow anyone to tease him; so, as he didn't get any fresh meat, he didn't get savage. He had a good time and made friends all around, and as he got bigger would chase 'round decks just as a common cat does when it feels good."

"One moonlight night he took a run from the quarter clean forward and up the riggin' half way to the fore-top; then he couldn't get down, and yowled so pitiful like that one of us went up and got him. He thought that was great fun, and did it again, and kept on doing it; but we couldn't be bothered going after him every time. So one night the mate says: 'Let him stay 'ere and get down himself.' So we let him stay the whole watch, yowling all the time, but no one paid any attention to him. Bimeby, 'lon' 'bout eight bells, he stopped yowling, and made up his mind to try it himself, so he hitched and scrambled and managed to get down all right. Then he walked aft, kinder dignified like. We thought he was sore on us for neglectin' him so, but he wasn't; he was only proud of what he'd done, and a little stuck on himself—'bout then, he was young."

"He sat down by the wheel and seemed to think it over, then he took another run forward and up the shrouds. He came down right away and walked aft; and then he tried it again. That seemed to satisfy him that he could do it all right, and he gave it up for that night, but he carried his tail straighter up in the air after that."

"He learned an awful lot, that cat. He noticed everything, and bimeby got to wonderin' what made the skipper and the mates look at the compass and then swear at the man at the wheel. He learned to do that, too. He'd jump up on the binnacle and reach his neck over so's he could see the compass; then he'd make faces at the man at the wheel and growl. It was all in fun, though, he never meant nothin' by it. We called him quartermaster for that."

"One evenin' it looked mighty squally over to the eastward, and the old man ordered everything taken in down to the main to gallan' sail. We cleaned up and started aloft to tie the canvas up. Quartermaster was feelin' specially good that night, and had been racin' 'round and down the fore riggin'—he seemed to know he belonged to the mate's watch, and wouldn't go near the main or mizen—so when we passed him in the riggin' we tried to coax him with us. He came along and got into the

top all right; but the top mast riggin' was new to him, and he yowled as though askin' us to wait. 'Course we couldn't wait, but went on up; and Quartermaster thought it over. He didn't know the way—she was wire rigged aloft; he had to hunt around for the running riggin' that he could dig his claws into. But he got up to 'gallan' yard 'bout the time we'd finished with the royal and came down to it, and sat down in the slings to watch us. He seemed to know just what we were doin', and when we got done he come down with us.

"After that, every time he'd see us goin' aloft on the fore he'd go 'long, too, and knowin' the way now, he'd always beat us up, and we'd find him sittin' in the slings of the to' gallan' yard, waitin' for us. But he'd never go above that yard; he'd no use for the royal at all, and if he found the to' gallan' sail wasn't clewed up to be furled when he got up, we'd always meet him comin' down, lookin' kinder sheepish like. Bimeby he got so he knew the ropes a bit, and could tell if we were clewing up the royal or the top gallan' sail; or else he understood the mate's orders, for he didn't make no more mistakes like that."

"After he'd watched us tie up the to' gallan' sail a few times, he took the notion o' helpin' us. He'd brace himself and dig his claws into the sail, and hang on to what we'd pulled up. Course he couldn't hold much of the sail in his grip, but he did his best, and he seemed so proud of it, too; we'd always put him on the head and encourage him all we could."

"One time four of us and quartermaster had rolled up the to' gallan' sail, and were comin' down. The crowd below had tied a reef in the topsail and were bowsin' it up, and we all jumped on the haulin' part of the halliards and rode down with it."

"Quartermaster was puzzled, and didn't know just what to do himself; but finally he made up his mind to ride down the halliards, too; so he jumped onto the rope. It was great fun for him; but he waited too long, and the top sail was up before Quartermaster got down, and it left him hangin' on to that single rope, way out from all the other ropes—and it was mighty hard work for him to scramble down

on one rope. He seemed kinder hurt about it, as though he thought there was some trick in it. We tried to explain to him, and encourage him to try it again, and next time to jump on sooner. But he wouldn't; leastways, not on the fall."

"But he'd jump onto the other parts of the tackle and ride them down, knowin' that if his ride stopped before he got down there were plenty of ropes close to him to climb down on. One time, though, he warn't lookin' out for his tail, and it got dragged into the lower block. He let out an awful screech, and we slackened away till he got his tail clear; but he'd never ride down halliards after that, though he'd still help us on the yard."

"Bimeby, as he got bigger, he got too strong and ambitious, and his claws made little holes in the sail. That wouldn't do, and yet we didn't like to discourage him workin'; he was a real help on the yard. So the mate got a file from the carpenter, and filed his claws blunt, but he filed off too much, and next time Quartermaster started to go aloft he only got about six rattles up. He couldn't hang on."

"He tried it again, but it wasn't no use; he had to give it up and went right aft and below. He stayed down a whole day, and then came up and walked 'round lookin' so pitiful and discouraged like that we felt sorry for him."

"There wasn't a man of us who wouldn't 'ha' been willin' to mend that sail in his watch below just as fast as that cat could wear holes in it, if we could have him aloft with us again, and the mate was willin' to file the stumps sharp again, but Quartermaster wouldn't let him. The poor critter knew what the trouble was, and wouldn't never go near the mate again; but he'd soldier 'round among us, and whine and hold up his paw, so's we could see what kept him on deck when he was needed aloft."

"We hoped they would grow sharp again, and perhaps they would in time; but Quartermaster wouldn't wait for that. He felt himself disgraced and no use aboard at all; and he moped 'round and got thin, and one mornin' we found him curled up under the wheel-box dead. He just died of a broken heart, nothin' else."

"We buried him that day like a sailor. I tell you, we all felt bad, and the mate cried. The old man swore that if that cat had lived he'd have put him on the articles next voyage and rated him able-seaman."

As old Johnson finished, a long, tremulous shiver arose from the other end of the forecastle, and reaching out his head, he peered around and growled: "What 'em, the're all asleep."

MORGAN A. ROBERTSON.

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